

REENTRY UNIT

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There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

~ Colin Powell ~

MRP FLASH

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SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

A home, family, food... How many of us take that for granted?

In 2010, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) estimated that on any given night there were 76,000 homeless veterans sleeping on American streets.

Veterans are 50% more likely to become homeless than other Americans. This could be due to poverty, substandard housing, lack of support from family or friends, substance abuse, or mental health challenges that may develop or worsen as a result of trauma they experience while serving. The vast majority of these veterans are from poor, disadvantaged communities.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is here to work towards ending homelessness.

SSVF is a community-based veterans assistance effort by Pathways Community Health staff.

The program will be provided out of Pathways' Sedalia, Waynesville and Warsaw offices and will serve a 15 county area including:

- Benton
- Camden
- Cooper
- Henry
- Johnson
- Laclede
- Lafayette
- Maries
- Miller
- Morgan
- Pettis
- Phelps
- Pulaski
- Saline
- Texas

The SSVF program will provide a continuum of specialized housing services, case management, linkage to veteran and mainstream

benefits, temporary financial assistance and other supportive services in order to address housing stabilizations for very low income veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

For more information please contact Joe Mathews, Employment/Outreach Specialist at 573-616-9553 or the designated DOC Reentry Coordinator for your area.



Find MRP on the web at www.doc.mo.gov

National Conference on
Addiction Disorders (NCAD)
2015 Conference

Reentry professionals know that returning offenders to the community to be successful and productive citizens can be complicated by underlying mental health and substance abuse problems. A national conference returning to St. Louis this summer offers four days of education to address these issues.

The National Conference on Addiction Disorders and Behavioral Healthcare Executive Summit will address a broad range of topics in St. Louis at the historic Union Station Hotel, August 1-4, such as healing community-wide trauma in the aftermath of violent events, gender and sexuality-related issues in substance abuse treatment, and building peer supports to promote sober lifestyles. Reentry professionals who aim to better understand the therapeutic needs of people seeking to embrace long-term recovery will find the conference's dozens of educational sessions particularly useful.

Several well-known national speakers will be presenting, including singer/songwriter/recovery advocate Richie Supa, whose songs have been recorded by some of the biggest names in the music industry, such as Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Pink, and Ozzy Osbourne. His address on August 1 is titled *Finding the Music Within You: A Singer/Songwriter's Perspective on the Art of Healing and Recovery*.

More than 28 continuing education units are available in a variety of disciplines, and breakfasts and lunches are included in the conference fee. The event has also negotiated a discounted hotel rate. For more information and to register, visit www.ncadcon.com.



Magdalene St. Louis

Magdalene St. Louis will be modeled after the successful Magdalene Nashville program, which was founded in 1997.

The programs are designed not just to help a subculture of women, but to help change the culture itself. The organization stands in solidarity with women who are recovering from sexual abuse, violence, and life on the streets, and who have paid dearly for a culture that buys and sells women like commodities.

Magdalene St. Louis will:

- Provide up to two years of housing
- Offer a community based on our motto "love heals"
- Help residents to live honest, sober, and self-sufficient lives
- Provide educational and vocational opportunities
- Foster self-understanding through personal and spiritual growth counseling
- Provide life-skill building and maintenance education
- Provide a mechanism for income and asset development through Individual Development Accounts
- Offer opportunities to work toward economic self-sufficiency through a social enterprise
- Provide medical and dental care

Magdalene's programs advocate living gracefully in a community with one another. New residents are given a key and are offered the necessary resources to maintain recovery, heal from childhood wounds, become physically healthy and find employment. Residents, graduates, staff and volunteers share daily tasks, offer hospitality, build on each other's strengths, and provide compassionate, disciplined support.

If you would like more information about this program, visit www.magdalenestl.org.

Up-Coming Events

8/1—8/4/2015

National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD) 2015
Going to Bat for Recovery
St. Louis Union Station Hotel | St. Louis, MO
For more information please visit
www.addictionpro.com/ncad-conference

9/16-18/2015

Missouri Mental Health Foundation:
Real Voices Real Choices Conference
Tan-Tar-A Resort | Osage Beach, MO
For more info please visit
<http://dmh.mo.gov/constituentservices/ConsumerConference.htm>



- Please provide any upcoming events to your designated Reentry Coordinator or the Reentry Unit.

Farmington Correctional Center/ Restorative Justice Organi-

FCC's Restorative Justice Organization (RJO) works year-round on a number of different projects which are shared with various organizations to benefit others. During the winter, crocheting hats and scarves is a popular project, so that these items can be distributed to those in need. As shown in these photos, there are some very creative members of the group. Most of the items pictured were either given to St. Francois County Community Partnership to be distributed with the Season of Hope Campaign or given to KidSmart for distribution to needy children in the St. Louis area. Some of the items were donated to *My Sister's Place*, a non-profit gift shop in Bonne Terre. These items are for sale to the general public with all proceeds from hand-crafted donated items given to the Southeast MO Family Violence Council.

Additionally, RJO, with financial assistance from the veterans' organization, Veterans of Vietnam War (VVAW), purchased toiletry and baby items to be donated to the Women's Shelter. Also included were baskets made by RJO members and filled with fresh fruit purchased with the donations from the two organizations.

Last, but most definitely not least, RJO and VVAW donated funds to purchase Christmas candy, pencils, erasers, and stickers to make treat bags for visiting children. The bags were distributed the weekends before and after Christmas.



Hope. Family. Future. Ava's Grace

1 in 40 American children have a parent in prison. In Missouri, there are 44,000 children with an incarcerated parent. Children with incarcerated parents are 7 times more likely than other children to enter the criminal justice system one day.

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation (AGSF) is an innovative, one of a kind non-profit entity whose mission is to one day break the cycle of incarceration through the gift of education.

AGSF will award scholarships for higher education on an annual basis to children of incarcerated parents in the state of Missouri. Beginning in 2012, AGSF has awarded two to four \$3,000 to \$5,000 scholarships per year and is currently supporting eight scholars across the state of Missouri. In 2015, we will make it twelve scholars.

AGSF and the resources it provides can be life chang-

ing for the scholarship recipients as well as their families and the communities in which they live. If children in similar situation can see a child from their neighborhood achieve an education, something that is possibly viewed as the impossible, they can see it for themselves.

How to Apply:

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation has built upon the newly created "Common Scholarship Application" for their application. The St. Louis Regional College Access Pipeline has committed to the creation of a common application for students in metro St. Louis area and Ava's Grace has used their application as a starting point for the GSF statewide application.

For additional information please contact Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation at 314-485-2937 or info@avasgrace.org

KC NoVA

STOP THE VIOLENCE!!

That's the core message of KC NoVA (Kansas City's No Violence Alliance), a new effort by key law enforcement and city leaders to reduce violence in Kansas City's urban core.

Throughout 2013, KC NoVA partners—the Kansas City, MO., Police Department, the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the mayor of Kansas City, the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole and the University of Missouri-Kansas City—are implementing this new strategy to reduce violent crime in the city. As part of that strategy, KC NoVA will communicate directly with persons identified as members of groups associated with violent crime in the city.

KC NoVA aims to bring the community and law enforcement together to actively communicate and engage to reduce violence. This strategy for violence reductions follows similar successful models used across the nation. Operation Ceasefire in Boston, MA, reduced youth homicide by 63% and Cincinnati reduced homicide involving group members by 47%.

KC NoVA uses police intelligence to analyze the relationships among criminals, mapping offenders and their associated groups. Key members of those networks will be invited to meet with KC NoVA leaders and their partners, including community leaders and the faith-based community. At these so-called call-ins, invited group members will be asked to stay away from violence. Offers to connect them to social services will be made. If violence result, anyway, group members will attract the swift attention of law enforcement.

Those choosing to be involved in violence, as well as their associates, will receive the full attention of this new law enforcement alliance.

KC NoVA launched in late January 2013, when it focused on a Northeast Kansas City-area group associated with violence. A total of 17 people were arrested, including suspects in multiple homicide investigations. Forty-nine warrants were cleared by the arrests and 15 new charges brought. Officers also recovered 4.5 grams of cocaine, 224 grams of marijuana and 200 pills. That crackdown demonstration to those group members unwilling to change will be arrested and prosecuted by law enforcement.

KC NoVA is supported by its partner agencies, which have donated personnel, time and equipment, as well as outside funding from local grant makers, including the Greater Kansas City LISC (Local Initiative Support Corp.) and Jackson County COMBAT.

KC NoVA Partners:

- Kansas City Police Department
- Jackson County Prosecutor
- Mayor's Office, City of Kansas City
- Missouri Board of Probation of Parole
- U.S. Attorney
- University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Kansas City Crime Commission
- City Prosecutor's Office, Kansas City
- Greater Kansas City LISC (Local Initiatives Support Group)
- More2
- U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Marshal



Please continue to send the Reentry Unit ideas and/or articles you would like to have considered for upcoming FLASH publications.